Drug Abuse among Youth

*153. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the problem of drug abuse among the youth ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the schemes under implementation for the prevention of drug abuse; and

(d) what has been the achievements so far ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Welfare sponsored a multicentred study on student population in 1975-76 and a repeat study after a decade (1985-86) to assess the prevalence of drug abuse among university students. The 1975-76 study covered seven centres which included Bombay, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Madras and Varanasi. In the study of 1985-86 two more centres, namely, Banglore and Calcutta were added :—

(b) The majorfindings of these two studies are :—

(i) The prevalence of abuse of illicit drugs, especially alcohol, tobacco an painkillers was most common.

(ii) The 1985-86 study indicated that legally prohibited drug use was around 2%. This was in contrast to the finding of 1975-76 study which showed that use of such drugs was negligible.

(iii) Drug abuse was more common among boys than girls. Girls mainly used pain-killers and the use of illicit drugs among girls was practically negligible.

(iv) Drug abuse was more prevalent among students with urban background, especially those studying in Central, Public or convent schools, hailing from nuclear families and residents of college hostels or staying away from their families.

(v) Causes for drug abuse were mainly psychological such as satisfying curiosity, relieveing tension, and also peer presssure.

(c) and (d) A Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse is being implemented by this Ministry to provide financial assistance to voluntary organisations for running of Conselling, De-addiction and After Care Centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and also for creating awareness among the masses against drug abuse and alcoholism. Under this scheme 90% of the approved annual expenditure is provided by this Ministry and the remaining 10% is borne by the voluntary organisations themselves. Universities/ Institutes of Social Work/Institutes of Higher Learning are, however, provided 100% grant under the scheme. At present 152 Counselling, 104 Deaddiction and 15 After Care Centres are functioning. At these Centres 10 50 lakh addicts have been benefitted from April, 1986 to September, 1993.

Starvation Deaths in Orissa due to Drought

*154. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Kalahandi District, Orissa, is affected by severe drought and people are dying due to starvation every year ; and

(b) if so, what kind of assistance the Central Government is providing to the State to save the people from starvation deaths ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Some pockets of Kalahandi district in Orissa are frequently affected by drought conditions. But no report has been received from the State Government about any death due to starvation.

(b) Under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for which Central Government provides